

AMMAA News

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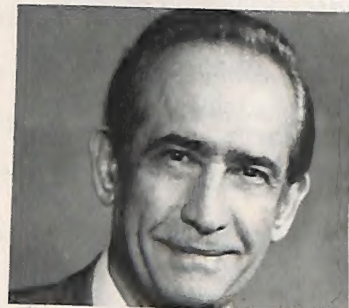
IN MEMORIAM RUTH PHILIBOSIAN

The gold medallion, presented
to her on September 10, 1978
on the occasion of the Sixtieth
Anniversary Celebrations of the
AMAA bears this inscription:

TO
RUTH PHILIBOSIAN
A GREAT LADY
IN APPRECIATION

THE DEAD TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH OF ARMENOCIDE

— G.H. Chopourian, Editor



G.H. Chopourian

There are frantic efforts by the Turkish propaganda machine to refute the truth that a genocide was perpetrated against the Armenians in their own homeland occupied by Turkey. The Turkish Government has hired a public relations firm in Washington headed by a former Chief of Protocol for an American President. Books are reaching our AMAA headquarters written especially to disprove Armenian claims.

I am truly saddened by these efforts because it "prostitutes" history, misleads the Turkish population and makes accommodation and reconciliation extremely difficult. How can a people make an about turn if deceived for a long time?

An incident occurred in the United Nations some years ago which showed the crass ignorance of the chief representative of Turkey to the U.N. When the Greek and Turkish representatives were accusing each other of atrocities in Cyprus, the Greek delegate referred to the atrocities perpetrated by the Turkish Government against the Armenians. The Turkish delegate argued it was just the other way around and referred the Greek delegate to the great British historian's, Arnold Toynbee's, Armenian Atrocities: *The Murder of a Nation* as proof that Armenians had practiced atrocities against the Turks. The Turkish Ambassador was immediately recalled back to Turkey, for Toynbee's book is one of the primary sources for proof of the murder of the Armenian population of Cilician Armenia by Turkish authorities. That's what cover-up does.

Toynbee's book can be matched with hundreds of books. English, American, Swiss, French, German authors relate the dismal story of 1915. The British White Papers, American Congressional Records, French and German Government records abound with facts and figures. Turkey has no chance, absolutely no chance, to cover up the truth of the event.

To me, the evidence of the dying is the greatest proof. Mourner after mourner has told unbelievable horror stories that sustain the facts given by historians.

I have been to hundreds of funeral services over the past 50 years, and heard hundreds of eulogies. Each one has had a story of miraculous escape while father, or mother, sisters or brothers had been slain. If the deceased is from Cilician Armenia inevitably the eulogizer at some point reveals that "the father of the deceased was taken away suddenly and never returned and that his mother, sisters and brothers were driven out of their village and died of starvation in the hot desert." Or, "her father was burned to death and her mother was abducted, to this day she never learned as to what happened to her older brother and two older sisters." On, and on, and on -- in Syria, in Lebanon, in Cyprus, Egypt, Greece France, England, Canada, the United States and so on, the dead write footnotes to history.

Some don't leave it to eulogists. Here are a couple of ex-

amples out of hundreds who are writing their own stories. Mesrop G. Boyajian of Oakland, California has this important paragraph in his story:

"All the men of my native village, Kharpert, were ordered to a meeting on top of the mountain a few miles outside the city. These men, including my father, never returned. Three days after my father had vanished, the military returned to Kharpert and with swords, axes, even bare hands slew the populace at random. During that one day four thousand Armenians were butchered in cold blood. My mother was killed as she descended the church steps after having lit a candle and offered another prayer, her last, for my father. Witnessing the murder were my sister, my sister-in-law, my brother and I. And I shall never forget..."

Alice Berberian Haidostian, an accomplished pianist, sister of Ara Berberian and wife of gynecologist Berj Haidostian of Greater Detroit, has written an article entitled, "Every Armenian Has a Story to Tell." She writes: "My mother saw her father and brother brutally murdered."

As a Christian Institution, we cannot and will not condone the taking of innocent blood by terrorists from the ranks of any nation. That was what was practiced upon our innocent Armenian compatriots which we today condemn. Mrs. Elizabeth Caramanian Payne is one of those Armenians who finds terrorist tactics abhorrent. In her letter to the editor of the Florida Times Union she states, "I mourn over those Armenians who did senseless killings. We are doing just what the Turks have done. So, my sympathies go to the relatives of all the Turkish officials who were killed by Armenian terrorists." The Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America has expressed similar sentiments and suggests other procedures than terrorism to deal with Turkish/Armenian relationship.

Now we have a new phenomenon on the Armenian scene. For the first time in the history of the Armenian people, we have a terrorist movement. Why now? Because 66 years of pleading has not succeeded to have the Turkish authorities accept the historical event. History testifies to its truth, the dead witness it and the living speak eulogies and the Turkish government fights against the grain. A segment of the living is angry and anger begets murder.

What is the solution? We believe the example of Germany can provide the answer. The German people acknowledged the genocide practiced upon the Jews by Hitler, made restitution and today there is cordial relationship between Israel and Germany. The Turkish Government should not consider it to be dishonorable to seek forgiveness since the current Government was not involved. Then, it should negotiate a process of restitution.

When will Turkey understand the need to heal the psychological wounds Armenians carry and make a statement of fact? If she fails, the development of events in the past near seven decades would demonstrate there will be no end to Armenian anger by a certain segment. The unequal struggle may last decades or centuries.

We plead with the current Turkish authorities to listen to reason. We pray that they will heed wisdom. The spread of the Armenian population in five continents is a bad omen for Turkey. The anger of even a small segment can be devastating upon public opinion.

We are charitable people. Pull down your guard, oh! Turkey. Embrace us with moist eyes over the injustice of the past, and see what welcome you will receive!

IN MEMORIAM: RUTH PHILIBOSIAN

JUN 2011

The sudden and tragic news of the death of Miss Ruth Philibosian, life member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, deeply saddened her loved ones but just as much the Board of Directors of the Association, the Armenian Evangelical Church congregation and many friends at home and abroad. Ruth was a most loyal member of the AMAA — her life was woven into the fabric of the Association which she loved and trusted. She was the one and only recipient of a medallion in pure gold bearing the replica of the seal of the AMAA, awarded to her on September 10, 1978.

The youngest of children in the Philibosian family, Ruth was born in Tarsus, the City of New Testament fame, on September 15, 1904 and entered her eternal rest on February 10, 1982. She received her early schooling in Syracuse and Auburn, New York, graduated from the Atlanta High School, attended one year at "The Castle," a finishing school in New York, got her B.A. from Emory University and a Masters Degree from the Teachers' College of Columbia University. Ruth received a teaching assignment in Public School 61 in New York City in 1941, news for which she had been waiting for for two years, but she chose instead to serve her country first and entered the U.S. Women's Army Corps. After her discharge from the Army and a year of teaching in New York City, she went to Beirut in 1946 to do volunteer teaching in the Armenian Evangelical Schools in Beirut. She went for another year of labor of love to Lebanon in 1960 where she taught English at Haigazian College.

In her will, Miss Philibosian prohibited the holding of a funeral service, but the AMAA was glad to cooperate with the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York whose Board

ruled to organize a memorial service for their lifelong church member. Eight testimonials were given at the memorial service where a church-full of people had gathered to extend their sympathies. Her brother, Charles, and six nieces and nephews had come long distances to honor the memory of their beloved sister and aunt Ruth. The golden strand of thought that ran through all the testimonials, which are reproduced in the next pages, was Ruth's compassion and charitable heart. In the words of Mr. George Philibosian, the President of the AMAA, "Ruth rejoiced in giving without expecting anything," and Mr. Archie Cherkezian, her co-worker in the Armenian Evangelical Church for many years, quoted Lao-Tze, the sixth century Chinese Philosopher, to lift up Ruth's true character: "I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize," said Lao-Tze. "The first is gentleness; the second is frugality and the third is humility, which keeps me in putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can be a leader of men." Ruth was seen as one that personified that philosophy of gentleness, humility and selflessness. Her pastor, the Rev. Dr. H.A.G. Hassessian, also testified to her total generosity in these words, "For people's sake she lived as though poor that she might give even more."

The entire Armenian Evangelical world will miss Ruth Philibosian, but particularly the Armenian Missionary Association of America for she said of that Institution: "I know of no organization that is so far-reaching of its services to the community. When the darkness gathers, the Armenian Missionary Association is like a house of light and no one knocks on the door without being heard, for we are indeed our 'brother's keeper.'"

— G.H. Chopourian

The Inspirational Corner

RESURRECTION: BEING UNBORN

My mother always cries when we go to visit grandma in the special place for old people.

"What are the rails for and why is grandma in a chair that has two big wheels on the sides?" I asked.

"The rails are for help with walking and the chair to push herself around," my mother said.

I thought real hard. Grandma is just like my baby sister! My baby sister holds to things to walk, uses a chair with wheels, eats food that looks like mashed potatoes. But grandma is 87 years old, and my sister hasn't even had a birthday yet.

I needed to know one more thing, so I asked my mother, "Where was baby sister before she was born?"

"She was with God. God gave her to us as a gift because He loves us so much just like He gave you as a gift when you were born."

"Mother," I said, "I know why you cry every time we go to visit grandma and I know why grandma cries every time she visits us."

Mother didn't say anything. She stopped and looked at me.

"First, we were with God. God loved us enough to let us be born. Then, we grow up and live a long, long time 'till we finish growing and get old. While we're growing up we get to love God and miss Him. So when we're finished growing, we grow down, 'till we get back to where we started. The next thing is to get unborn so we can be back with God."

Mother was smiling. But I wasn't finished yet.

"That's why you cry when we go visit grandma. You know you will miss her when she gets unborn and goes back to God. And that's why gram cries when she comes to visit us. She knows she will miss us, too. Right mom?"

"That's right," she said, but she was crying again. "Is it possible she is thinking she'd be unborn some day and I would miss her?" I thought.

Adaptation by G.H. Chopourian
From an adaptation by the Rev. Mr. Karl Avakian of Sharon Nale's story

CHILDREN NEED LOVE

(For Mother's Day)

"I'm going to run away from home."
"Why?"

"Because I hate you and I hate this house and I'm leaving."

"Is it because of me?"

"Sometimes. And sometimes it's Dyana or Dad. And sometimes it's because I have to do things I don't want to do. The rules are unfair. You let Dyana go to the store and get candy and then, when I want to go and get candy, you say I can't. You keep telling me what to do and how to do things. You won't even let me run away."

"I can't stand this conversation anymore. I don't want you to run away, so go to bed."

"Why don't you want me to run away?"

"Because I love you."

"Okay, I'll stay."

TESTIMONIALS MADE AT THE RUTH PHILIBOSIAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

ON BEHALF OF THE AIJIAN/MUNROE FAMILIES

— Elizabeth Munroe
— Richard Aijian

After reading of Scripture by Elizabeth Munroe, one verse of which read, "God is not so unjust to overlook our work and the love which you show in serving the Saints" (Hebrews 6:10 - RSV), Richard Aijian paid this tribute:

These Works, these Labors of Love are among the things that belong to Salvation. They are the work of God's Grace. Such Graciousness is a sure token of Divine Grace.

John Calvin said, "God recognizes His own gracious gifts in us and is bound by His nature to acknowledge them."

God placed the gift of *Love and Sharing* in the life of Ruth to a degree that few of us would be able or willing to undertake. She shared and gave, not off the top of her abundance, for she had abundance, but as *Mother Theresa* reminds us, *sacrificially*. Ruth gave selflessly to us present in this service, to her loved ones, her church, and to the saints overseas. She gave of her financial resources totally; she gave of her talents, totally; her time commitment was total. Her thoughts and her prayers were the same — living for others!

In Matthew 7:16 Jesus says, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Well, God and man know Ruth Philibosian for unselfish Christian service, sacrificial giving taught by Jesus, exemplified by her brother Stephen, practiced by her and passed down to us.

Ruth is still giving; even now, she is giving a challenge to us here. A challenge to do more. Can we, who honor and love her, accept her challenge? Can we, who do much, recommit ourselves, to a hungry, perishing world, and do more? Isn't this what her life was all about?

Thank you Auntie, for being a Good Teacher.

ON BEHALF OF THE KHANDJIAN/CHARLES PHILIBOSIAN FAMILIES

— Marie Khandjian

Ruth Philibosian was our "Auntie

Dickie." When we were very young, she lived with us. I don't remember her at that time, but grew up hearing how much she loved my brother Charles. She called him "pie face."

As an adult, I got to know her very well. She was very interesting, very intelligent, very articulate, and very good company. I looked forward to her visits with us. She planned to be with us Easter, then go on to Texas to be with her other family members, but the Lord had other plans for her.

She was a very caring person, very loving. She loved her family, the Armenians, and education.

When I heard of her death, I immediately thought of her favorite song, "Ivory Palaces." I know that she is now in that Ivory Palace, face to face with Jesus. She was assured of her place in Heaven, but not because of all the many wonderful things she did for God. She knew the Bible says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy has He saved us." She knew that the Bible also says that "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Jesus Christ died to pay for her sin and she was resting in the fact that she accepted His death on her behalf as forgiveness for her sin. "For by grace we are saved through faith, and not of ourselves — it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." The ground is level at the foot of the cross. All of us can be assured of Heaven and eternal life, simply by accepting His free gift of forgiveness, by trusting Him.

We shall miss her here on earth — we sorrow, but not as those who have no hope, for we know that when Jesus Christ returns, the dead in Christ shall rise first and we shall be reunited with our loved ones and Christ, forever.

Revelation 21:1-4 tells us that there will be a new Heaven and a new earth — God shall wipe away all tears and there will be no more death or sorrow or pain, for the former things have passed away.

ON BEHALF OF THE STEIN/PHILIBOSIAN FAMILIES

— Joyce Philibosian Stein

In Acts 20, Paul speaks of his Christian ministry and describes how his mis-

sion has totally changed his life — physically and spiritually. As I read verse 24, I sensed Paul's comprehension of life's purpose, which also echoed Aunt Ruth's *raison d'être*. May I read it for you now:

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with Joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord, Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God."

As Oswald Chambers proclaims in his book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, joy means the perfect fulfillment of that for which we were created and regenerated.

Auntie's joy must be great in heaven as her life truly demonstrated a single-minded purpose and joy in counting her life precious only to fulfil that ministry of helping the less fortunate. For, those who knew her best are aware that "self" was not considered in her life — even minimal comforts were discounted.

However, Aunt Ruth, in her singular wisdom, sowed the seed in rich American soil, and produced abundant fruit for those who may never have had the opportunity to even taste.

"I was parent to the poor, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know." Job 29:16

I believe that this anecdote of my Aunt's life, epitomizes her deep-felt convictions: Many years ago, when Auntie was a young girl living in Auburn, New York, her parents although not conversant in English, took her every Sunday to worship in the local Methodist church. As was common in those days, individuals in the congregation gave vocal testimonies and Yeprem and Martha Philibosian were no different in their desire to express their lives dedicated to the Lord. Ruth was the translator on these occasions.

One Sunday evening when Aunt Ruth was about to stand and translate, her mother gently pressed a hand on Ruth's shoulder signaling her to stay seated. In Aunt Ruth's own words, "Mother stood to her feet and in halting English gave her first public address in the English language — 'I love Jesus.'" Auntie, too, loved Jesus; and the Lord, in reflecting on her loyalty to His purpose for her life, must be saying, "Well done good and faithful servant, well done."

We are grateful to our Lord for this life and the legacy it has provided for all of us as friends and family.

ON BEHALF OF THE AMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

— George Philibosian, President, AMAA

It is with a deep sense of sorrow and loss that we are gathered together this afternoon to pay our prayerful tribute, and to present our duty-bound respect to the memory of a great and true Christian sister of ours, Ruth Philibosian.

As an organization on whose behalf I am facing you, the Armenian Missionary Association of America feels particularly saddened and hurt by her departure from our midst, because we have a great difficulty in separating the AMAA, its life and activities of at least the last two decades from the life of this wonderful person for whom this memorial service is taking place today.

In extending on AMAA's behalf our most heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the bereaved and dear relatives who are left behind, we cannot but recall Ruth's most exemplary life and personality, and the incredible amount of GOOD that she generated during her life, and the GOOD that she made sure will continue to be achieved after her departure.

Indeed, one can easily say that the spiritual and moral force of her life, the rare kindness that spans her entire earthly existence, is surpassed in our minds only by the generosity of her thoughts and deeds, while she was with us, and for the foresight of their being continued hereafter.

In this modern existence of ours, when most of us are lost in the backwash of the materialism of a self-centered world, where "getting without giving is the norm of the day," here was indeed a rare personality whose spiritual enthusiasm and social compassion for her fellowmen were always rejoicing in "giving without expecting anything."

The Spirit of God seemed always to move upon this beautiful soul with a fervor that took her to the point where her life became solidly etched in our minds as that of a uniquely humble but just the same of a most forceful personality.

More than all the preachings of the world, her life was a constant example

to us: in that the pursuit of happiness was only a dead end, an unattainable goal, without a grasp on GOD, His laws, and His work. And, yes, she did practice more than anyone we know the Lord's preachings, obeyed more than anyone else His laws, and served as second to none His cause.

We at the AMAA and you here in her Church, and the vast array of people and causes in this country and abroad that have been helped by Ruth Philibosian's beneficence, and that of her family, will have an impossible task to forget Ruth, or not to remember her every day of every month in years ahead.

Of course, we are very saddened today, all of us! But we are also thankful to our Lord, The Eternal, for having given us Ruth, this magnificent and rare human being, indeed; grateful to Him for having offered us the opportunity to work with her, and being presented with this most fortunate chance to carry on, through her and for her, that unshakable "Helping of Others" legacy of hers "without expecting to get anything back;" to serve the Lord, obey His laws and continue His work — thus making it a better world.

Truly, if there was any one person that dedicated itself and even finished its own life trying to do so, to make ours a better and more humane world, Ruth Philibosian was that person!

May her noble, delicate and humble soul forever rest on the side of our Lord, and may her unusually kind and generous examples be emulated by all of us who will miss her so dearly.

ON BEHALF OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF N.Y.

— Archie Cherkezian

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for Thou art with me."

So intoned the young priest as he accompanied the condemned prisoner to the death chamber. Suddenly, an aside was heard from the group of budding actresses on the right side of the stage. A mellifluous voice whispered, plain timely, "But he did many good things." This impulsive, compassionate gesture belonged to Ruth Philibosian, dear Ruth, whose memory we have gathered here this noon to honor.

God's finger touched her on the 10th of February and she now sleeps.

The recounted scene occurred forty years ago during a play presented by the Christian Endeavor Society of our church in the social hall in 1942. I was that young priest and many sitting here today were participants in that play.

All of us are grateful and praise heaven for the privilege of having known Ruth Philibosian through these past four decades.

But what were the realities of God's creature known as Ruth Philibosian? What was so special about Ruth? What was the sum and substance of her life?

Yes, she was a very active participant in church and church related affairs, cheerfully and willingly accepting any responsibility thrust upon her. At one time or another, she was elected or appointed to every Board of our Church and just prior to her "journey home" she had been elected to our Board of Deacons. She served for many years as a member of the Executive Committee at the Armenian Missionary Association and was named Honorary Life Member of the Board.

Although she was a pillar of strength to the entire Evangelical Community and following the footsteps of her beloved brother, Stephen Philibosian, an inspiration to countless Armenians around the globe, her heart and soul belonged to this church and she was even ready to solve problems. When a decision had to be made whether our church should remain open during the summer season, she strongly advocated keeping the church in session, noting a church should never close its doors and she volunteered and did deliver superb sermonettes; played the piano to lead in the singing; and assisted in every way she could, during those summer periods.

Ruth was also a firm believer in the adage, "If everyone gave a thread, the poor man would have a shirt." She gave at every opportunity to a deserving soul, and by example, she was responsible for others' giving.

She practiced the ideals promulgated in I. Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity." Ruth donated large sums to the AMAA for she knew these gifts God had granted to her in the earthly life would be utilized to advance His earthly Kingdom. Her donations are a thread which will be used to tie together all our Evangelical Churches; will give succor to

all worthy, needful endeavors our churches aspire to, and thereby strengthen the Evangelical fabric around the world. If her donations and those inspired by her, were impregnated with dyes and we followed the flow of the dye, the trail would lead to practically every evangelical activity in every Armenian Evangelical Church in every country on every continent.

Yes, her outward life was filled with dedication to the church. This was her public image, the Ruth Philibosian the world at large recognized.

However, the walls of this church and the others are hallowed by the activities and stewardship of many grand ladies and gentlemen, all christians and all eternally dedicated. But through the years, I have been inspired by certain rare qualities in Ruth's life, certain realities.

Colton once wrote of religion, "Men will wrangle for religion, write for it, fight for it, die for it, anything but - live for it."

The reality of Ruth's life was she lived her religion.

The reality of Ruth's life was her very ingeniousness in blurting out, "But, he did many good things," for she lived the precepts of Christ.

Ruth could not believe in the inherent nature of evil in man. She searched and searched and eventually pointed out a person's goodness.

She was the incarnation of Pope's poem, "Teach me to feel another's woe, To hide the fault I see; That mercy I to others show, That mercy show to me."

The reality of Ruth was her humbleness. Ruth was as unassuming and unpretentious an individual as I have ever met. If she was present physically in this sanctuary today, she would blush, turn her head and try to sneak out. As many know, her favorite pew was the last one and if that was occupied, she would gravitate to the next to the last pew. When asked why she made this choice, her answer floated back serenely; "There are many here more worthy than I."

Lao-Tze, the 6th Century B.C. Chinese philosopher revealed: "I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality and the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can be a leader among men." Ruth Philibosian met the high, the low, the rich, the poor with equal humility and Christian fellowship. She was the embodiment of David Grayson's words:

"When I feel like finding fault, I always begin with myself and then I never get further."

These were some of the realities of Ruth, not the \$1.98 cents of chemicals in the body, nor the trappings of the physical world but the lifelong personal characteristics that are the sum of substance of a person.

But above all else, was her love of God, her faithfulness, her belief in prayer. If you had a distillation flask, mixed all of Ruth's realities, applied the heat of life, the distillate would be love of God.

At the time of her brother's death, Ruth was on her way to a meeting. A few of us had already gathered and we were informed by phone from Philadelphia, of the loss. When Ruth entered the office, she saw our stricken faces and guessed what had happened. She stood stock still and with the tears streaming down her cheeks said quietly, "Brother is with God." She would repeat everlastingly and prayerfully, "Not my will but Thine be done."

Everyone we meet in this transient life makes an important impact upon us, leaves part of their heart in our hearts. Her sincerity, her humbleness, her simplicity, her search for the truth, her charity, her love of God, her love of humanity, yes even her peccadilloes, will be reflected in the lives of all who know Ruth.

We have lost a great Christian lady. But Ruth, dear Ruth, "Dust thou art, to dust returnest," was not spoken of your soul.

ON BEHALF OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION

— Herald A.G. Hassessian

Ruth's deeds spoke louder than her words. Her princely contributions for Christian projects, educational programs and her donation to the Armenian Missionary Association are phenomenal. Giving with open-handed generosity was her nature. Truly, giving is the fruit of faith. Faith is the gift of God. She being a believing Christian gave of her abundance in good faith. She gave it willingly and gave it with love. For love can never give enough, can never do enough. Love keeps no ledger. Such was Ruth's love and giving.

Ruth was a jewel wrapped in the humility of a simple life style. Though she

was blessed with material abundance, for people's sake she lived as though poor that she might GIVE EVEN MORE. She walked in the shadow of the Sermon on the Mount. She was a pleasant SILENT PRESENCE in our midst. Ruth had a message in disguise that goes beyond our time to remote years ahead.

On April 2, 1942, Ruth joined the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York as a communicant member. During these four decades she was active in Christian Endeavor, was a member of the Senior Fellowship, the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees and served on the Executive Committee of the Ladies' Aid Society. Her contributions to these committees are remembered with respect and much appreciation.

On January 17, Ruth was once again installed as a Deaconess and attended the first meeting of the Board of Deacons of 1982. She never missed the Sunday divine worship services and faithfully attended the Adult Bible Class.

Her loyalty to the Master, love to her church and deep concern for people were the reflections of her Christian character. For her, character was the real person, reputation its fleeing shadow.

We all shall miss her in our church family.

ON BEHALF OF THE AMAA

— G.H. Chopourian, Exec. Dir. AMAA

The actions of a person flow from inner motivations implanted into the heart by family or friend or teacher or preacher.

Ruth, born to committed Christian parents, discovered from them early in life that "charity is a virtue of the heart and not of the hand." As the youngest in a family of four, she caught the spirit of service from her brothers and sister. Her brother, Steve, once said: "There is nothing so satisfying as to serve others. Make a fortune - then what? Shall we forget those left behind? We could have been in their place. Not to make use of one's worldly possessions for others is like building a house and not living in it. God gave them, to be used as a stewardship, to help the less fortunate." She learned from him that we are trustees of God's gifts.

These are the inner springs that turned into running waters of charity in her.

When her nephew and I were moving her belongings out of the apartment, Richard found an orange button which had these words on it: "To Love is to Give...Do Something Beautiful Today."

Let me count the beautiful Somethings Ruth did:

1. Ruth volunteered two years of her time to teaching in the Armenian Evangelical Schools and Haigazian College in Beirut. That's mission. What untold good can be done if doctors, teachers, young people, would volunteer their services for a year!
2. Ruth gave of her possessions generously — a six-figure gift towards the construction in Beirut of a new and beautiful "Armenian Evangelical College" building of seven stories in memory of her parents Yeprem and Martha: another six-figure donation in full payment of the cost of construction of the AMAA headquarters in Paramus: a seven-figure contribution on the occasion of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the AMAA in memory of her sister and brother-in-law, Siroon and Caloost: a five-figure gift to establish an endowed fund in her church.
3. But, over and above all the monetary contributions, Ruth always gave of herself with the gift knowing that the gift without the giver is vain. She was compassionate, loving, caring, understanding and humble. As a successful and bright teacher for about 40 years, she gave of herself to the little children in full measure. The 1940, May 22 issue of the New York Times reported that out of 691 persons who had sat for the Board of Education examinations and of whom only 82 had passed, Ruth had ranked 17th on the list. She served on the Board and committees of the AMAA for 20 years, devotedly, loyally, lovingly. She never forgot the children overseas, with every opportunity sending parcels of school materials and toys to make them happy. A statement she made to me reveals her Christian philosophy: "Thomas Jefferson, perhaps the wisest of our founding fathers," Ruth said, "Had this advice: 'I deem it the duty of every man to devote a certain portion of his income for charitable purposes, and that it is his further duty to see it so applied as to do the most good.'"



A.M.A.A. HEADQUARTERS

AMAA Headquarters



The Yeprem and Martha Philibosian Evangelical College
Beirut, Lebanon.

This was her chief concern, that her life would do the greatest good. I know this to be true perhaps more than anyone else from the hundreds of candid and probing questions she put to me over the past 12 years. She chose the AMAA as the instrument through which her wish of "the greatest good" would be fulfilled. "When the darkness gathers," said this gentle, friendly, warm, loving, caring and concerned creature of the institution she served so faithfully, "The Armenian Missionary Association of America remains a haven and a house of light, and no one knocks on the door without being heard, for it is indeed our brother's keeper." She loved her Christ and in gratitude was

spent for Him.

Mrs. Chopourian and I will truly miss her and the fellowship we had with her at home, at church, at our children's homes and at functions. Oh! How we shall miss her! But we shall stand by her principles and execute her wishes faithfully.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to her brother, the eight nieces and nephews and her many grandnephews and grandnieces whom she loved most dearly for she always told me so, sometimes with a glitter of pride in her eyes and other times with eyes moistened with tears of happiness. Let us cherish her memory.

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

By Ruth Philibosian

We reproduce below a writing by Ruth Philibosian left with the Editor of the AMAA NEWS for later publication. It is a deep reflection on the hymn Ruth Philibosian loved most, "Lead Kindly Light." Every line has sparked a thought in her, some of which appear to go to her early childhood and others that look up to the future in victorious hope. The Editor is deeply grateful to Ruth Philibosian for having left this gem of an interpretation of the struggle of a soul in its efforts to understand and trust God's promises.

→ Editor

You know how it is sometimes with a song ... just a few lovely notes that fasten themselves in your memory and haunt you ... whispering, calling, leaping up at the oddest moments. In spite of all the dizzy going around in circles, they keep ringing in your ears, bringing exquisite moments of nostalgia. That's the way it was for me today ...

Lead kindly light
Amid the encircling gloom
Lead thou me on

How quickly it all comes back, and I thought I would never remember again. But memories are never quite forgotten, and now it all comes to mind. With it comes a wistful longing that the years would turn back and give me, just for an instant, the peace and joy I knew as a child. It can happen ... it does happen. No magic words are spoken, no wizard's wand is waved, but simply at the scent of a flower, at the sight of a curve in a road, at the sound of an old hymn, the years roll back, like a trail unwinding ...

and there you are, a child again.

The night is dark
And I am far from home
Lead thou me on

So dark ... so far. Why do I feel so lonely, almost frightened? If only I could clutch a hand, someone who cared and could lead me through this dark night. Once ... but so long ... I thought I could go alone. But now, I need you, Father ... let me be close to you. How dare I ask? Because, though I am the dust of the earth, you have breathed a spark of yourself in me.

Keep thou my feet
I do not ask to see
The distant scene

The distant scene? God, only you know what that scene will hold. All I ask is that you give me spiritual fortitude, and whatever befalls me, I will keep the faith. Not in legal rights, or secret signs, or mysterious symbols ... only faith in you, God, because you once were partly man and walked this same trail; because, with all my weakness, I am partly God — a part of your great Plan.

So long thy power
Hath blest me
Sure it still will lead me on

I cannot see you, God, but in life's dark hours, through pain and fear, in bitter loss and failure, I have felt your presence. In your mercy, you spoke and I heard your voice. "I am with you always," and I have been comforted, like a child awakened from a troubled sleep.

O'er moor and fen
O'er crag and torrent
'Till the night is gone

'Till the night is gone ... and then, my Father? Then? Will there be rest for those who are so tired? And joy for those whose fumbling hands have failed, and cleansing for the poor weak souls who've sinned? There are times when, battered and torn, too weary to go on, we would lay down our burdens. But something holds us. Is it your hand, God?

And with the morn
Those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since
And lost awhile.

Those whom we loved and lost ... we commit them to your grace, Father, because we were promised. "In my Father's house are many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you." Round the turn, Father. ... if we believe ... will we find the mother whose voice has not answered for so many years? And will we see the little child we laid within the grave? And the mate that was wrenched from us in agony? Will we join them in some bright morning? You have seen so many mornings come. Father, be with us through this night ... until the lesson all is learned, and we have borne our cross as He bore His ... until we hear your precious voice. "Now it is over ... the trail is ended ... come home."

The twilight fades ... myriad stars break into brilliance ... sweetly the bells toll. Something lifts in our spirit. It is the promise ... your promise, God. ... of what some day shall come to pass, when we will know that life does not end in death ... and we enter into the mansion of your love.

THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN FOUNDATION

The Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. is pleased to release the annual report of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation whose chairman, Mrs. Joseph H. (Philibosian) Stein, Jr., recipient of the Dr. Hum. honorary degree from Haigazian College, is grateful to God for the opportunity to serve God's children. The other members are Mrs. Louise Danelian, Los Angeles, and Mr. Richard Aijian, San Antonio, TX, as family representatives of the Trust and Albert Momjian, Esq. of Philadelphia, PA, and Mr. Nazar Daghljan of Lansdowne, PA, AMAA representatives.

Nineteen eighty-one was one of unprecedented funding as this Foundation earmarked substantial expenditures for education and welfare within the Armenian community. The major thrust has been, and will continue to be, in the field of educating Armenian youth. Our Founder, Mr. Philibosian, in response to a woeful lack of Armenian parochial schools in the Near East, determined and then set about to build, in collaboration with the Armenian Missionary Association of America, numerous Evangelical Schools. Countless thousands have received scholarship and graduated from

these fine scholastic institutions.

During the scholastic year, through the combined efforts of the AMAA and Children, Inc., in conjunction with the Stephen Philibosian Foundation and Endowment Fund, over \$200,000 were designated as scholarship funds.

The Haigazian College continues to receive our support as the educational needs grow in that precarious city of Beirut. The College enjoys excellent scholastic standings and an enrollment today in excess of 370 students — the highest since the war in 1975.

It has been a privilege for Trustee

Louise Danelian to serve as a member of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Hollywood. Here, many thousands of newly immigrated Armenians are assisted physically and morally, as well as being educated in a new language — English. At the present, more Armenians reside in America than anywhere else in the diaspora; and the major portion of that population lives in California. This Center has provided the answer for an explosion of population in the Armenian-American community in the Los Angeles area.

Mrs. Stein represents the Foundation as a Trustee of the Armenian Assembly of America. This representative coalition of the American-Armenian community has become a catalyst in many fine projects: The College Internship Program in Washington, A Special College Students Association, the Holocaust Museum Project, and in enabling funding for special

projects such as the Armenian Social Service Center in Hollywood are among its innovative endeavors. The Assembly's long-range goals are dedicated to promoting the Armenian heritage as it becomes a part of America's history — its present and future.

The Stephen Philibosian Foundation has undergirded many other Armenian entities including: The Arshag Dickranian School, The Saint Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School, The American-Armenian International College at La Verne, The Armenian Sisters Academy, and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

In American, civic, church and cultural endeavors, this Foundation has participated in: Campus Crusade for Christ, Young Life, Bible and Medical Missionary Fellowship, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Hospital, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Los

Angeles Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Opera Association, and The University of Southern California School of Continuing Education and Armenian Music. Donations, therefore, from this Foundation and the Stephan Philibosian Endowment Fund exceed \$400,000 in 1981.

Of special interest is the exciting debut of Mr. George Mgrdichian with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Mgrdichian, who has been encouraged and supported by these Trustees, will dedicate his first performance to The Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

A final note of thanksgiving for the life of Ruth Philibosian — a Trustee — and sister of our Founder. We, along with others, grieve her physical absence, but are grateful for the dedicated and unselfish life she portrayed.

A sense of deep gratitude abounds as The Stephen Philibosian Foundation is enabled to serve God, Country and Man.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ABOUT THE AMAA/AEUNA WILLS AND BEQUESTS PROGRAM

"Your prolonged campaign is not only expensive but *offensive*. How long will you 'badger' your captive audience? Why not evaluate your program? Are you getting results? It could work in reverse. Who needs a 3 year education on Wills?"

Anonymous (San Francisco)

"Thank you, Dr. Chopourian, for this ('How to Write a Will That Works') and for all your other material. I read them all with interest!"

Shohig Terzian

"Dr. Chopourian, the idea of a Revocable Trust is an excellent one. You should provide greater details. I would like to have more information."

Long Distance Phone by Edward Karian, M.D.

Editor's Note:

Throughout the 2½ years in which the Wills/Bequests materials were mailed, we have scored more than 67% in positive comments. The two or three written negative comments were all unsigned, and there have been two verbal negative criticisms. The program was geared for three years because of savings, as a two-year program would have cost the Association and Union the same as for three years. The Board of Directors were cautioned that disapprovals would

come from some quarters. The Board approved the program just the same, because the incidence of intestate deaths among Armenians was high, in some cases with disastrous consequences. In one case, close to three million dollars were washed away. We are satisfied with the results we have obtained so far, but, to re-emphasize, we are in it more for the service we believe we are rendering than the monetary results. We have not intended to keep addressees captives.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF NAME FROM MAILING LIST

Gentlemen:

Please remove our name from your mailing list.

Unsigned
and no address provided

Editor: We receive about 3 such unsigned requests each mailing. We would like to oblige, but we don't know how!

ALICE ODIAN KASPARIAN HONORED BY NAASR

On November 14, 1981, at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. during the 27th Annual Assembly Banquet of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, special honors were extended to Mr. Thomas T. Amirian of Brookline, Mass. founding member of NAASR and member of its first Board of Directors,

Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian of Belmont, charter member and founding member of NAASR's Washington, D.C. Chapter, and Mr. and Mrs. Natalie of Watertown, the first two charter members of NAASR.

All four were cited for their "lifetime of service and activities on behalf of Armenian culture and heritage" and for "over a quarter of a century of faithful service" as members of NAASR. The extent and nature of their dedicated service and activities were detailed by Board Chairman Manoog S. Young and assistant Secretary Joanne Peterson. Each of the honored members received a beautiful volume of Armenian Art Treasure of Jerusalem, accompanied with a specially inscribed certificate of citation, followed by a standing ovation.

The Editors of AMAA NEWS heartily congratulate Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian, a Life Member of AMAA, for her deserving recognition and take this opportunity to apologize for the inadvertent error which appeared in the November/December issue of the AMAA NEWS. We regret that while reporting the tribute given her on May 7, 1981, in Watertown, Mass. by the AGBU Watertown-Belmont Chapter, her name in the headline of the article was erroneously printed as Alice Odabashian Kasparian, instead of her correct name of Alice Odian Kasparian. Her family name Odian is an ancient Armenian name and is not abbreviated or changed from Odabashian.

ALFORD CARLETON: SERVANT OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND FOREIGN MISSIONS AND THE ARMENIANS

— G.H. Chopourian



"Alford," I asked my friend and co-laborer in missions, Dr. Alford Carleton, "could you give me some autobiographical notes with some emphasis on your Armenian connections? What, in your candid opinion, is the calling of Armenians in Syria and Lebanon? He said he would be happy to respond and he did.

It is most important to learn a few things about our Christian brother and friend because he served in Aleppo, Syria at a time when Armenians needed encouragement, inspiration and educational direction. Dr. Carleton, a 1924 graduate of Oberlin College, went to Aleppo in 1925 as a missionary of the ABCWM (now the United Church Board for World Ministries) and retired in 1970. Including interruptions for studies for his B.D. and Ph.D. degrees and furloughs, he served 30 years in Syria until 1954 and was Executive Vice-President of ABCFM first in Boston and later in New York until his retirement in 1970. As Executive Vice President, Dr. Carleton traveled widely, covering not only Board responsibilities but making his contribution to the growing ecumenical movement represented by the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches. Following the merger of those two world organizations, he was placed on the Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the WCC and was Chairman of the Commission on Religious Liberty of the World Organization.

Two of the great "servants" of the Armenian people at the time of their gravest need were the Rev. John E. Merrill and the Rev. Mr. Henry H. Riggs, names well known and highly cherished in Armenian circles. Alford Carleton's connection with the Armenians, and the Armenian Evangelical Churches in particular, began with his arrival in Aleppo in 1925 where he lived with the family of John E. Merrill and worked in close association with Henry H. Riggs. He was also surrounded by gifted Armenians on the staff of the Boys' High School, which was the old Central Turkey College moved to Aleppo when the Armenians fled from Aintab and Marash when the

French pulled out unceremoniously from Cilicia. Alford made himself a part of the Armenian Evangelical community personally. He attended the services of the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church as a result of which he learned to speak both Armenian and Turkish since the refugee population from Cilicia were Turkish speaking. In fact, he even preached in Turkish a few times himself.

Responding to query of the influence of Armenian leaders upon him, Dr. Carleton testified, "I got immense inspiration from the great group of Armenian leaders, pastors, doctors, teachers with whom I was in steady contact. I could tell many a narrative including some picturesque ones about Badveli Aharon Shiredjian, but I will limit myself to this one. Once, in the midst of the troubles of the First World War, still rampant and the plight of the Armenians at its worst, he was seen walking in the central square of Aleppo, white waistcoat and white tropical helmet and all. Dr. Merrill asked him, 'How do you dare walk in so public a place?' 'Because there is no other safe place to walk,' was Shiredjian's humorous reply."

I also sought Dr. Carleton's guidance on the "calling" of Armenians in Syria and Lebanon. He was unable to speak on the current Armenian situation in view of the chaotic situation in Lebanon and the deteriorating state of society and commerce in Syria. He believes, however, that the experience of Aleppo College may be instructive enough to apply to other circumstances where the Armenians find themselves a minority among a not-unfriendly people. "When Central Turkey College moved from Aintab to Aleppo," he relates, "it was 100% an Armenian enterprise, save for some American help. In another part of Aleppo there was the North Syria School for Boys, set up by the Presbyterian Mission in Syria for the Christian training of children of Christian families. Obviously, there arose the question of merging the two small struggling schools. A few, both from the American Mission and the Armenian side, were opposed, wanting to maintain the 'purity' of the Armenian heritage and the teaching of the Armenian language. The majority won out on the argument that if the Armenians are to live in an Arab environment they should be educated with Arab youths, and taught good Arabic as well as English — continuing teaching of Armenian to those of Armenian ethnic origin.

Speaking on the consequences of the compromise, Dr. Carleton writes: "The outcome, through most of the years that I was a teacher and later President of Aleppo College, was a happy combination of one-third Muslim Arabs, one-third Christian Arabs, and one-third Armenians. Thus, no one group dominated the whole, and when divisions were made it was a majority of Arabic-speaking boys and a majority of Christian boys. And the Armenians made a good adjustment, taking full and honorable part in studies, in sports, in student government and all the rest. And fanaticism was relatively unknown, on whatever base, and Aleppo College was a happy and effective educational enterprise having the highest percentage of successes in the Syrian Baccalaureate Exams of any school in Syria."

Dr. Carleton's Ph.D. dissertation, "The Government of Minorities in the Ottoman Empire," qualifies him to define the term "nation" as "any group of people that think they are a nation." He finds that through most of history "nation" has been more equivalent to "people" — a group based on historical, ethical, religious (as in the "millet system") or linguistic ties. The concept of a nation as being all the people living in a particular set of territorial boundaries came to the front in the French Revolution and it has lived on as the territorial rather than the ethnic idea of a "nation." In the territorial concept of a nation, minorities are suspect, and asked to conform to the norm of the ruling group. Dr. Carleton explained: "I have been told that when the settlement of the First World War was being hammered out at Sevres there was the readiness of the Powers to establish an independent Armenia. But the boun-

"Cilicia Evangelical Union was the first 'native church'"

daries were so uncertain, and the various political parties among the Armenians were so divided that no quick arrangement could be made, and the possibility passed by."

I would like to conclude the story of the relationship of this friend to Armenians with a few final personal comments: Dr. Carleton has the strong conviction that a fair share of the finest persons he has ever known have been Armenians in Syria, Lebanon or the U.S.A. He confesses he came under the spell of many leaders, the naming of whom would be disrespectful to those omitted by failure of memory; he also believes that just as there are aristocracies in any land, the Armenians constituted in his days the aristocracy of Syria in the fields of the learned professions, just as Arabs held place in the governmental and landed aristocracy; and, he confirms a historical truth that the Cilicia Evangelical Union was the first "native church," to use the terminology of the time, to arise under American Board auspices in any part of the whole world. They were the earliest example of the self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating church which was the ideal of Rufus Anderson, the great pioneer of ABCFM.

Thank you, Alford, for your "universal mind" and the possession of an "Armenian heart."

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS

THE REV. & MRS. AVAK AVAKIAN



The Rev. Avak & Mrs. Veronica Avakian

On January 1, 1982, the Rev. Avak & Mrs. Veronica Avakian celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Sarnia, Ontario. The celebration was highlighted by a party organized by their daughters, Marguerite and Beatrice and was attended by family members, relatives and close friends.

On the happy occasion, the Rev. & Mrs. Avakian received letters of congratulations from friends and relatives from Canada, the United States and overseas. Among those marking the happy milestone was the City Council of Sarnia, which, acting on the personal recommendation of the Mayor of the City, voted to include the names of the Rev. & Mrs. Avakian in the list of forty "Honorary Citizens of Sarnia" who were all recognized publicly through the news media for their fifty years of married life.

The celebration was heightened by surprise messages of felicitations from a number of dignitaries and government officials including the Royal Governor of Canada, General Ed Shreier, the Prime Minister, Mr. Eliot Trudeau, the Premier of Ontario, Mr. Bill Davis.

Although retired from pastoral service, the Rev. Avakian continues to lead an impressive active life serving voluntarily in numerous religious, charitable and social organizations in Sarnia such as Right to Life and Canadian Mental Health Associations, World Outreach, Council of Clergy.

The Rev. & Mrs. Avakian came to Canada in 1969 after retiring from a long and fruitful ministry in our Armenian Evangelical Churches and school systems in Lebanon working under hard and difficult circumstances. Mrs. Avakian herself did sacrificial yeoman service at the Gert-

menian/Devirian School as Principal.

The Rev. Avakian was born in Hassan Bey, Turkey and Mrs. Veronica is a native of Hadjin. They were married in January 1932 in Beirut, Lebanon. They have four children: Marguerite, married to Aram Dermentjian of Sarnia, Ontario; Aznive married to Vram Yegparian of Toms River, New Jersey; Beatrice who is in the teaching career in Toronto, Ontario; and George who lives in Beirut, Lebanon.

We heartily congratulate the Rev. & Mrs. Avakian on their Golden Wedding Anniversary and wish them many more years of conjugal life full of happiness, health, contentment and God's blessings.

MR. & MRS. SAM MURADIAN

Benevolent friends of the AMAA, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Muradian of Kingsburg, CA, celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on June 14, 1981 exactly on the date of their marriage in 1941. The Muradians, owners of ranches, are members of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, have a sensitive heart for the needs of the unfortunate, love God's work and the laborers in God's



The Sam Muradian family

Kingdom. This picture shows the wonderful family of one son, two daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild: Linda and Stanly Palm and their two sons; Jim and Cathy Muradian; Caroline and Alton Tabor; Joanna and Craig; Joshua, the great-grandson; and Laurie Tabor.

DR. & MRS. HAGOP CHAKMAKJIAN

Dr. & Mrs. Hagop Chakmakjian celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on August 9, 1981 in the home of their daughter, Alice Cowden in Fresno. They were married on August 9, 1926. Present were their son, Vasken from Havertown, Pennsylvania;

daughters, Hilda Sapsizian of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Susan Carson of Seattle, Washington; and their sister, Yester Ketenjian of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Dr. Chakmakjian has given yeoman ministerial service to many churches in the Middle East and the U.S. as pastor and author, his last book, "In Quest of Justice and Peace in the Middle East," having received wide circulation in



Dr. & Mrs. Chakmakjian and son Vacek (standing)

American circles. His wife has not only been supportive of his ministry but has been a perfect "yeretzgin."

We extend to the couple best wishes for a happy, healthy and contented life.

THELMA ABABIAN REVEALS THE PAST EXISTENCE OF A TOTALLY PROTESTANT VILLAGE

Mrs. George (Thelma) Abajian revealed that her father, Hagop Shirmanian, changed the course of his life on coming by a Bible. He was given one in Erzerum when he went there on business from Alexandropol. On returning, he helped spread the teachings of the Bible. Those who came to know the truth of God in Christ turned lay evangelists and the number of the reformed grew. But, as it always occurs, the believers were maligned and given much trouble. As a result, an appeal was made to the Russian Czar (Nicholas, we believe) whose mother happened to be a Protestant. The Protestant mother of the Czar advised her son to help the believers in Alexandropol who had made an appeal. The Czar instructed the Protestants to pick a place of their choice in His Kingdom and settle in it. A group went to the province of Kars and surveyed the surroundings. They found a very nice spot about 20 miles from Kars. The place was called Garaghala — a mountainous valley, plush and good for farming and grazing. They decided to settle there with the blessing of the Czar. About 100 Protes-

tant families lived in the region. There were a total of only two families in the settlement affiliated with the Armenian Apostolic Church who were never persecuted. Finally Garaghala was of Christmas items and which was held at the United Armenian Congregational gone to Yerevan, the United States and elsewhere.

ALBUQUERQUE MEMORIAL

To the list of eleven memorials the AMAA NEWS displayed in its 1981 April issue, we wish to add the 1981 memorial established by the Armenian Cultural Association of New Mexico. It is a living commemoration to the 1915 Genocide of the Armenian Nation by Ottoman Turkey, presented to the Museum of Albuquerque on May 9, 1981.



THIS TREE PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM OF ALBUQUERQUE

A LIVING COMMEMORATION TO THE 1915 GENOCIDE OF THE ARMENIAN NATION

ARMENIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO 1981

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

The Center held its Fifth Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, March 27, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Hollywood which featured the music and testimonies of the immigrants who have been the recipients of assistance from the Center. Among the 400 banquet guests various notable civic leaders were also present.

VISITOR TO THE AMAA HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Hovnathan Aghassian of Oakland, CA, stopped over to see the Head-



quarters. In this picture Mr. Aghassian is third from the left; the others, from left to right, are: The Rev. Moses Janbazian, Field Director, Mr. Yeghishe Hajakian of River Edge, NJ, a Haigazian College graduate, and Mr. Gerard Baghdasarian of Ridgefield, NJ.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

A testimonial dinner will be held in Los Angeles on September 17, 1982 in recognition of the retirement of Dr. John J. Markarian as president of Haigazian College for 25 years of dedicated service.

Further details of the event will be announced as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we hope the Armenian community will clear the calendar for that date and encourage the leaders with their participation and cooperation.

NUGGETS FROM RUTH PHILIBOSIAN'S PHILOSOPHY

Whether or not your daughter comes to live in your house is unimportant. She could be welcomed back in the mansion of your love.

Brains, humility and reverence have no gender.

NEWS FROM TRAINEES FOR THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND THEIR TRAINORS

Lawrence N. Bakalian, preparing for christian ministry at Lancaster Theological School, has been awarded a one year fellowship for theological study at the Near East School of Theology. Laurence and his wife, Maria, will spend 1982-1983 in Beirut. Dig into some Armenian Studies, Laurence!

Daniel Albarian reports that his work with the young marrieds and the singles group of the UACC has been organized and one of their regular activities is Bible Study every week. Daniel is preparing for the christian ministry at Fuller Seminary. He also supervises the UACC Sunday School. He asks for our prayers in his part-time ministry, studies and housing.



Carol Bogossian

Carol Bogossian, a Bachelor of Science graduate from Springfield College, plans to attend Wheaton College and will specialize in Christian Education to serve the Lord whom she has accepted as Lord and Savior at a Young Life Camp in Colorado. The AMAA will be supportive of her education through a scholarship grant.

Shoushan Salibian. AMAA, as a contributing agency towards Shoushan's education, is happy to learn that she has earned a Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.) from Andover-Newton Theological School and has been ordained to the christian ministry on January 24, 1982 at the Chapachet Union Church in Rhode Island. The Chapachet Union Church is a union of American Baptist and Congregational (UCC) churches.

The Near East School of Theology - Beirut. There are now 35 degree candidates and/or full-time students at various levels of preparation. From the point of view of church sponsorship, the two largest groups of students are from the Armenian Evangelical Union and the National Evangelical Synod with 9 from each.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES & INSTITUTIONS



Calvary Armenian Congregational Church (Architect's design)

CALVARY ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A long-time dream was realized by the membership of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church when they observed their ground-breaking ceremony on Sunday, February 21, 1982 for their new church building to be located at Brotherhood Way in San Francisco.

In addition to the guest minister, the Rev. Harry M. Missirlian, and the words of welcome from Dr. Zaven A. Adrouny, Chairman of the Building Committee, church member participants on the program were: Mr. & Mrs. John Halajian; Sylva Shemassian, Sunday School Superintendent; Yevnige Torunian, President, Calvary Circle; Vicken Khachadourian, Choir Director; Arpie Shemassian, President, Youth Group; Edward Medzian, Church Moderator. The event also brought special greetings from Mr. Edward Medzian; The Rev. Mineo Katagiri, UCC Conference Minister; the Hon. John Molinari, President, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco; Mr. George Beylerian, Vice Moderator, AEUNA; and Dr. Puzant Krikorian, Board Member of the AMAA.

We add our best wishes for God's blessings on this great beginning with our prayers that the "inner" church will look as glorious as the "outer" one.

IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DOWNEY

Missions Sunday was observed during the worship service of the Church on January 17, 1982 with the Rev. E.S. Tovmassian, Pastor of Immanuel Church and the immediate past Executive Secretary of the AMAA, supplying the mission inspiration. The new West Coast Director of the AMAA, Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, and Dr. G.H. Chopourian highlighted the multi-faceted service and outreach rendered by the AMAA at the luncheon having rushed there from the

service at the Cilicia Armenian Congregational Church in Pasadena. The Rev. Tovmassian gave tribute to Miss Elise Merdinian whose generous monetary gift will provide the headquarters for the AMAA in California. The luncheon annually underwritten by the Ashkarian and Fermanian families, was enjoyed by over 100 persons. Various church members offered their musical talents to the program with Vahe Ashkarian as Master of Ceremonies and Co-Host. Vahe Ashkarian and John Gabriel made \$5,000 donations each and Mr. Mack Mushegan \$1,000 shooting the total to over \$15,000 with donations from many others.

HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, LOS ANGELES

Over 300 persons attended the Auxiliary's Christmas Brunch which included a Silent Auction and Mini-Boutique of Christmas items and which was held at the United Armenian Congregational Church on December 5, 1981. As a major fund-raising event, the Board members, consisting of 20 hard-working ladies, additional friends and members of the Auxiliary, were gratified with the success of the event and the estimated proceeds of \$6,000 received.

UNITED ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, HOLLYWOOD.

The month of January was dedicated to missions with brief emphasis each Sunday on projects undertaken by the Missions and Outreach Committee. The projects that were brought to the attention of the congregation included the work of Hasmig Collier and the Rev. Apraham Chaparian among the newly-arrived Armenians; the AESSC's important social service work to the needy immigrants; financial aid to Haigazian College; Scholarships to needy, deserving students in the U.S.; and other important services. The annual AMAA luncheon was also a great success.

SAYING IT IN PICTURES

FOR A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

In pursuance of the decision and instruction of the Board of Directors of the AMAA, the Executive, Field and West Coast Regional Directors visited our churches and chapters in California from January 16 to February 5, 1982. They had the opportunity to preach mission-emphasis sermons, speak at promotional luncheons organized by AMAA Chapters and Missionary Committees, participate in Board and Missionary Committee meetings, hold conferences with our Pastors, visit members and friends of the Association, contact prospective contributors, pay courtesy visits to certain individuals and church leaders, have business meetings with a number of people on AMAA-related matters and engage in other promotional activities.

In lieu of the long written report presented to the Board, we wish to tell part of the story in pictures and in this way extend our unreserved gratitude for all the kindnesses, courtesies and encouragement extended to the Directors and the financial support pledged to the Association which will run up to about \$75,000 in pledges, payments and offerings. We praise God for the generosity of our constituency.



Dr. G.H. Chopourian, AMAA Executive Director, with (1) former student Hagop Derentz of L.A. reviewing the AMAA Annual Report; (2) Harry Aslan of Kingsburg, who was challenged to patronize an Armenian School or an Haigazian College Annual Perpetual Scholarship; (3) John Korenian, who will provide to the AMAA proceeds of a National Antique Rug Show he plans in the near future.



Haig Berberian of Modesto, CA, who will provide \$25,000 for a Perpetual Annual Scholarship for an Armenian student at Haigazian College; Dick Ailanjan of Los Angeles/Fresno, CA, who plans to donate an oil well for Haigazian College; Harold Haserjian of North Hollywood, CA, owner of Carpeteria, who was challenged to consider the possibility of a major assignment to an AMAA project; Henry Abajian of Altadena, CA, an Endowment Funder who has great plans for the AMAA.



The Executive Director wearing the National Raisin Co. cap donated by Ernie and Kenneth Bedrosian of Fowler, Ca; the Bedrosian brothers (brother Kay not in picture) with Field Director and Mrs. Chopourian, Mrs. Ernie Bedrosian at left and Mrs. Kay Bedrosian extreme right; Mr. Harry Savoian, CPA, and Mr. Edward Iskenderian met with the Executive and Field Directors in Inglewood, CA. The Iskenderian firm has provided contributions ranging from four to eight thousand dollars annually towards the Child Education Program of the AMAA.



Mr. & Mrs. Puzant Gulesserian of San Jose, CA, who have the continuity and success of the publication "CHANASSER" at heart; Mr. & Mrs. D. Abadjian of Pasadena, CA, who have the interest of the AMAA and Haigazian College at heart; Mr. & Mrs. Puzant Hadidian of Los Gatos, CA, who have assigned a substantial Endowment Fund to the AMAA; Mrs. Pailadrou Tufenkian of Modesto, CA, who has assigned a bequest for Haigazian College; Mrs. Thelma Abajian of Los Angeles, CA, who continues to add to the substantial Endowment Fund established by her husband, George.



Mr. Hagop Kouyoumjian of Montebello, CA, with classmate Dr. Chopourian; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Chakmakjian of Van Nuys, CA, faithful and generous supporters of the AMAA; mission and evangelism-oriented Mr. & Mrs. Qureken Diradourian of Sherman Oaks, CA, who pray for AMAA's spiritual advancement; Roupén Adalian, a Ph.D. candidate at UCLA and one of the many who provided help with transportation.



The Rev. Harry Missirlian of Fresno, CA, showing off new grandson following dinner for Directors; Mrs. Efronia and the Rev. Dr. Youhanna Mugar in their retirement home in Claremont, CA; Mrs. Gladys and the Rev. Nushan Hachian of San Francisco, CA, regular readers of the AMAA News; our dear Diran Minassian and his wife Lydia of Santa Barbara, CA, whose home is always open to AMAA personnel.



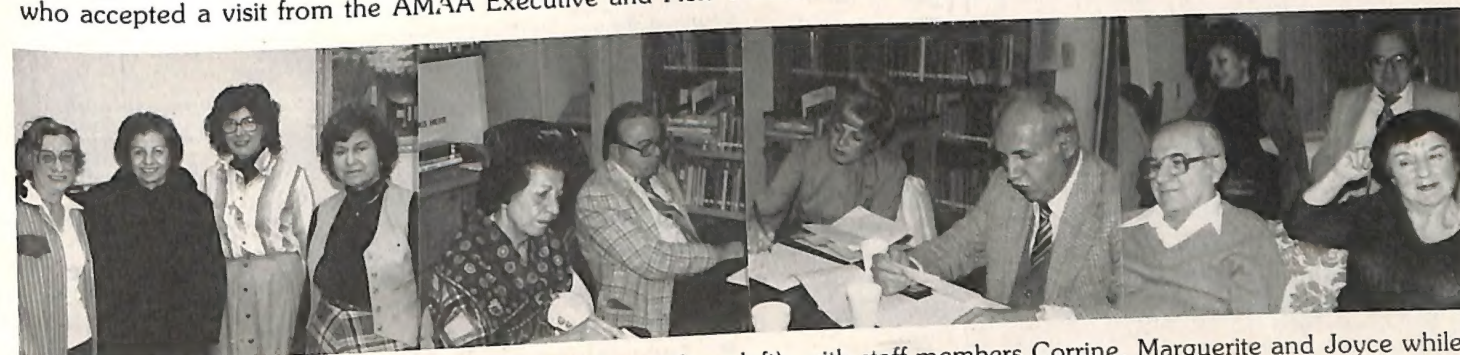
The guests at the dinner hosted by Miss Elise Merdianian at the Sheraton Universal, North Hollywood, CA; Elise Merdianian with Ann and Luther Eskijian of Altadena, in whose honor the dinner was hosted; Victoria and Alex Bezjian of Los Angeles, who have hosted their fifth brunch for AMAA Directors and area pastors.



Dr. Paul Gertmenian of San Francisco, CA receiving a recognition plaque from Dr. Chopourian; AMAA enthusiast Henry Gertmenian of San Francisco, and granddaughter; Mrs. Mary Aved of Burbank receiving a Life Membership plaque; Dr. Jack Abdulian, Mrs. Evelyn Levonian, Mrs. Joyce Abdulian, Mrs. Chopourian, Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian and Dr. Rendel Levonian after a brunch at the Ironwood Country Club, in Palm Desert. All are intensely involved in AMAA/H.C. work.



Dr. & Mrs. John Merjanian of Saratoga, CA, hosts of the meeting of the Armenian Fellowship of San Jose where the Directors spoke about AMAA; Mr. & Mrs. John Gabriel of Montebello, CA, a fine couple and AMAA Endowed Funders, for whose health and happiness we pray; Krikor and Violet Fermanian of Manhattan Beach, CA, with their son in front of their business building, who are good supporters of the AMAA; Mr. & Mrs. Archie Mathson of Fresno, CA, devoted supporters of the AMAA, who accepted a visit from the AMAA Executive and Field Directors.



West Coast Regional Director, Dr. Merjanian (second from left), with staff members Corrine, Marguerite and Joyce while at an orientation session at the Paramus Headquarters; the W.C.R.D., Dr. & Mrs. Mihran Agbabian and Dr. Jirair Sarian at an AMAA Board of Directors' meeting held at the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood, CA; Members of the UACC Missions Committee (Chairman, Eva Shahinian, guest M. Agbabian, A. Andonian and Secretary, Mary Koundakjian) in the home of the Rev. & Mrs. Vartkes Kassouni.



Calvary Armenian Congregational Church at service when the Executive Director and W.C.R.D. gave messages; Executive Director and Field Director were Sunday lunch guests of Leon Filian (first on right) in San Francisco, CA; the Executive Director (Mrs. Hasmig Collier to his right) addressing the women who are in Mrs. Collier's evangelism program.



The ladies of the Peninsula Friends of AMAA following a luncheon meeting at the residence of Dr. & Mrs. John Haleblian of Saratoga, CA; Ardson and Gladys Shegoian of San Francisco, CA, lovers and promoters of the AMAA; Mrs. Marian Bagdasarian of Fresno, CA, chairman of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church Missions Committee, the Rev. Bernard Guekguezian, Mr. George Bagdasarian and Bernard's Knar at dinner meeting in the Guekguezian residence; the W.C.R.D. with Kay and Chuck Zoolalian of Whittier, CA. The latter spent eight weeks in the AMAA office seven years ago providing great assistance.

OBITUARIES

MRS. MARIE JERNAZIAN

Mrs. Marie Jernazian was born on January 19, 1895, in Mazire, Harpoot Province, Turkey, the daughter of Asadoor and Hripsime Hovagimian. She lost her father during the massacre that same year, when she was nine months old. An older brother, Hagop, was forced to flee to America in 1904, to avoid being seized by the Turks.



Marie Jernazian

Even from her early years Marie was admired for her beauty, talents, and personality. At high school graduation she gave the valedictory address entitled *Principle*, and all her life she lived by principle rather than expediency.

From 1912 to 1915 Marie taught school in Mazire. In the summer of 1915 during the Turkish genocide of the Armenians, Marie and her mother were exiled with the first caravan of two thousand from Mazire, driven from their homes to the desert of Der-el-Zor. They were among the forty survivors of the march as far as Urfa. There, while working at the home of a missionary, she received permission to attend the Assyrian Protestant Church, the only one then allowed to remain open. In October, 1916, she married the young pastor, the Rev. Ephraim Jernazian.

Together, in the remaining years of the war and its aftermath under British and French occupation, they served the parish and the community. From 1918 until the arrival of the Near East Relief in 1920, they administered all the needs of the Armenian refugees in Urfa. They established and conducted an orphanage and school for children, workshops for adults, and church services for all. As a result of these efforts it became possible to reopen the Armenian Evangelical Church of Urfa, closed since the siege of 1915. An Armenian school organized and directed in conjunction with the church by Rev. and Mrs. Jernazian proved effective in rehabilitating the Armenian children and youth, many of whom had been gathered from the wilderness and had forgotten their Armenian Christian orientation.

In 1920, forewarned of troubles still to come as the Kemalist movement advanced, Rev. and Mr. Jernazian were offered safe evacuation with the British, but they chose to stay and continue to serve their people. When in February of 1921 Rev. Jernazian was suddenly, without explanation, seized and imprisoned by the Turks, Mrs. Jernazian for twenty-one months courageously sustained the family. At that time it included her mother, a daughter, and a son born five months after her husband's arrest. She maintained her strong spiritual faith, and she played an important role in her husband's eventual release.

The family was reunited in Aleppo in November of 1922 and the following summer migrated to the United States. Throughout her husband's pastorates in this country for forty-five years, Mrs. Jernazian gave dedicated service to Armenian Evangelical parishes in Salem, New Hampshire; Troy, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; and Providence, Rhode Island. They worked with vigor and everywhere brought spiritual revitalization as well as growth and strength in all aspects of church life.

Mrs. Jernazian used her talents to enrich the lives of others. As a Sunday School teacher she combined her dramatic abilities with her religious insights as she brought the Bible to life to spellbound children. Through the church ladies' groups she taught intricate Armenian handwork and the culinary arts, in both of which she excelled. Mrs. Jernazian was always a most gracious and generous hostess. Rev. and Mrs. Jernazian continued throughout their lives to serve the whole Armenian community, encouraging harmony and cooperation. They extended their services to non-Armenian as well.

With her numerous church and community activities, Mrs. Jernazian was still fully dedicated as a daughter, wife, and mother. In 1953, as the grandchildren had begun to come, Rev. and Mrs. Jernazian retired to Los Angeles to join their children who had settled there. As grandparents, again, they gave much love and inspiration to their five grandchildren.

When in his retirement Rev. Jernazian started a bookbindry, turning one of his hobbies into a vocation, Mrs. Jernazian helped there, too, with several of the operations. Another hobby they enjoyed together, which Mrs. Jernazian still continued with much success after her husband passed away eleven years ago, was gardening. They shared with friends generously the fruits, flowers, and vegetables which flourished under their expert, loving care.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Jernazian maintained her zest for living, and a warmth and understanding for people of all ages. She was a tireless meticulous worker who never lost sight of the Christian principles she had talked about at commencement. She spent her life translating those principles into action.

Mrs. Jernazian passed away suddenly in her home on November 24, 1981. She is survived by her son Dr. Samuel Jerian and his wife Mary; by her daughter Mrs. Alice Haig and her husband Dr. Vahe Haig; and by five grandchildren: Helen, Mari, and Ted Haig, and Susan and Nancy Jerian.

Memorial services were held on November 28th at the Church of the Reconciliation at Forest Lawn, Glendale, California. Officiating was the Rev. Vartkes Kassouni, assisted by the Rev. Berdj Djambazian and the Rev. Youhanna Toro. Memorials in lieu of flowers may be made to the United Armenian Congregational Church or to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director extend their heartfelt sympathies to her next of kin and wish them God's comfort and grace.

MR. SARKIS EDWARD NAHABEDIAN

The funeral service for Sarkis (Edward) Nahabedian, who died suddenly on February 9, 1982, was held at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA, with the Rev. Vartan Hartunian officiating.



Edward (Sarkis) Nahabedian

Born in Aintab on February 12, 1903, he lost his father, a victim of the Genocide, operated his father's coppersmith business and as conditions worsened for Armenians in Turkey, he disguised himself and worked in a Turkish village as a Kurd at the tender age of 14 to take care of the large family left without a head. At the age of 17, with the help and encouragement of his uncle, Dr. Yacob Touzjian, he arrived in the United States and soon brought the other members of the family to the United States.

In 1935, he returned to Beirut, Lebanon to marry Lucy Demirjian. The couple were blessed with eight children: four sons — Benjamin, Charles, Arthur and David; and four daughters — Rosalie, Shirley, Linda and Jeannette and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Nahabedian's positive influence on his children included developing their appreciation of our Armenian Christian heritage and imparting to them the traditional Armenian work ethic. He was a living example to his children and encouraged their involvement in the family business and church life.

Mr. Nahabedian never forgot his roots, his struggles, his successes. He went out of his way many times to help Armenians just arriving in this country find places to live and work. His warm personality, love and helpfulness will be long remembered by his family and friends to whom the AMAA Board extends their sincere sympathies.

ASDIG KOOMJIAN

Asdig Koomjian, who was born to Hagop and Armenouhy Koomjian of Kayseri, Turkey in 1900, went to be with the Lord whom he loved and served all his life. His mother and father who brought up their children in strict adherence to the Word of God gave Asdig and his sisters a valuable legacy which manifested itself in the life and character of this unusual and dedicated individual in his commitment to the service of the Lord and His Church.

Serving faithfully since the early days of the Armenian Congregational Church in Chicago, he became one of the closest associates of the late Rev. Avedis Darakjian — the "Father" of this church, eventually becoming the husband of Rev. Darakjian's daughter, Esther. This union produced two children, Doris and Richard.

Asdig served the church in many capacities: Served as deacon since 1956; was Chairman and Moderator on the Joint Boards for a number of years; and later Vice Chairman of the Joint Boards up to the time of his death. Although he possessed some very rare and unique qualities, his love for God was so vital and real that it evidenced itself in his devotion not only to his family, but also to his church and the Armenian community in Chicago. His exemplary life will long be remembered and the void he left with his demise will be clearly felt.

The AMAA Board and its officers extend their heartfelt condolences to Asdig's wife, Esther; his daughter Doris and son-in-law Fred; his son Richard and daughter-in-law Debbie; his sister Virginia Koomjian; as well as grandchildren Jacqueline, Philip, Christine and baby Jonathan.

MRS. ZABEL GAIDZAKIAN

Prepared by Raffi Berberian

After a brief illness, Zabel Gaidzakian of Sao Paulo, Brazil, entered her eternal rest on January 12, 1982. The daughter of Dr. Vartan Poladian and Leah Sarkissian Poladian, she was born in Marash, Turkey, on July 8, 1905. She received her elementary and high school education in the schools of the First Armenian Protestant Church of Marash. On January 21, 1920, the day the Marash War broke out, her mother was killed by a Turkish bullet. After the war, Zabel attended the Girls' College of Marash, operated by the American Board of Foreign Missions.



Zabel Gaidzakian and her surviving husband, George

The Poladian family left Marash for good in 1922 and for a time settled in Aleppo, Syria, where Dr. Poladian became an assistant to the prominent surgeon, Dr. Avedis Altounian. In 1923, Zabel was married to George Gaidzakian (a native of Alboutan, Turkey) who was then serving as Principal of orphanage schools operated by the Near East Relief Organization at Antelias, Nahr Ibrahim and Joubail, Lebanon. Upon the termination of relief activities in 1929, he became Principal of the Armenian Evangelical Central High School at Ashrafieh in Beirut. In 1935, the Gaidzakian family emigrated to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where George went into the retail shoe business.

Zabel was blessed to have been nurtured in a spiritually committed, God-fearing home. In her youth, she was admired in her community as a rare beauty, and, throughout her life, she continued to manifest the radiance of a saint. She loved the Lord and served him with happy eagerness and zealous devotion. Together with her beloved husband, she was a pivotal support in the pioneering efforts of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo. No matter how busy from the demands of their own work, the Gaidzakians always made time to help friends and strangers in need. Occasionally, George substituted in the pulpit, and Zabel continuously maintained an active involvement in the church's Bible study group and women's association. She directed the church choir, and her inspired singing touched countless hearts. With her husband, she was deeply involved in the work of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the compatriotic Union of Marash Armenians. The Gaidzakians' wealth is best measured in the tremendous number of people who have discovered in their generous hospitality the sincere outpouring of Christian fellowship. In 1973, they marked their fiftieth wedding anniversary with celebrations in Sao Paulo and Beirut.

Zabel is survived by her husband, George, her daughter, Hildalea, the renowned soprano known as the "Brazilian Nightingale," her son, John, married to the former Angele

Der Hovanessian, three grandchildren, all of Sao Paulo; a sister, Armine Berberian of Loudonville, New York; a brother, Hartune Poladian of Phoenix, AZ; a step-brother, Dr. Robert N. Armen of Monroeville, Pennsylvania; and various nieces and nephews.

The Board of Directors of the AMMA, the Executive Director, who was the beneficiary of the hospitality of the Gaidzakians when on two visits to Sao Paulo, and the Rev. Moses Janbazian, pastor of the Gaidzakians for seven years, extend their heartfelt sympathies to George, and all the kin.

DR. HAIG P. ISKENDERIAN



Haig Iskenderian, Ph.D.

Dr. Haig P. Iskenderian, nuclear physicist, retired from Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, died on February 17, 1982 at Halifax Hospital, Daytona Beach, Florida. Funeral services were held in New York City. He was 77 years old.

Dr. Iskenderian was born in Izmit, Turkey, and received his early education at Berberian School of Scutari, Turkey. He came to this country in 1922, and graduated from the Engineering School of the University of Michigan in 1927. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from Columbia University in 1957.

Early in his career he was with the Bell Telephone Laboratories and International Telephone and Telegraph Company. During the Second World War, in Washington, D.C., he worked on the demagnetization of ships for the Navy Department. Since 1950 he was associated with the Reactor Physics Division of Argonne National Laboratory, where he was involved in a broad variety of reactor physics studies. He was project physicist for the design of the Transient Reactor Test Facility at Idaho Nuclear Engineering Laboratory, and the Experimental Boiling Water Reactor at Argonne. Among many of his papers, two were read at the United Nations International Conferences in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Vienna, Austria. He was a member of the American Physical Society, American Nuclear Society and Sigma Xi.

Haig was brought up in a family where both parents were graduates of the American Missionary Schools of Marsovan, Cilician Armenia. His father was a Congregational minister and he himself was a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Elmhurst, Illinois for over thirty years.

On reaching the shores of the United States at the age of 17, he devoted his life to education and science, combining research with teaching and lecturing at various universities. He was loved and respected by Armenian and American friends for his intellect, achievements and humanity.

The Board of Directors wish to extend sincere sympathies to his wife, Nevart, of Daytona Beach, Florida, daughter, Marguerite, of Brooklyn, N.Y. and sister Yerehanik of Fort Lee, N.J.

MRS. MARGARET KESHISHIAN

Mrs. Margaret Keshishian, wife of the prominent Washington-based rug merchant, Mark Keshishian, entered her eternal rest on March 11, 1982 causing deep grief to Mark, now 89, and her three sons, John Keshishian, M.D. of Washington; James of Potomac; Harold of Poolesville, both prominent rug merchants; and her brother Gary Devletian of Washington.

Mrs. Keshishian was born in 1899 and was a resident of Washington, D.C. since 1931. A native of Adrianople, Turkey and a graduate of the American College for Women in Constantinople, she entered the United States in 1930.

The worth and value of a woman is best evidenced in the sentiments a husband bears for his wife. Mark Keshishian admired, adored and respected his wife Margaret. He respected her for her upbringing. Daughter of Artin Pasha Devletian, Surgeon General of the Turkish Army and Dean of the Military Medical Education College, she moved in cultured and educated circles and imbued the best that Turkey could offer to a young woman.

Mark admired his wife for her talents. Margaret, an artist who made the *Who's Who* among artists in the United States, exhibited in one person as well as group shows in Phillips Art Gallery, Corcoran Art Gallery, Smithsonian Institute and so forth. She became the recipient of the first prize at the Corcoran Art Gallery in 1942 and second prize in the Arts Club Exhibit in 1959.

And Mark adored Margaret for her beautiful spirit exhibited in her faithfulness, charm, humble spirit and prayerful life. It is said that when two persons of two different denominations are united in marriage, the family peace may be disturbed. Margaret belonged to the Armenian Church and Mark was an Evangelical — but the couple kept their own identities, respected each other's traditions and lived in loving harmony.



Margaret Keshishian and her surviving husband

The death of a person is a lesson for those who live to attend a wake: it is, therefore, most important that we all learn to "number our days," as the Psalmist advises, "that we may apply our hearts to wisdom."

The AMAA prays for peace and strength for Mark, God's comfort upon her three sons, her brother Gary and her eight grandchildren.

SONA BENLIAN

Sona Benlian, born on April 2, 1891 in Sepasdia, was the youngest of four children and the only daughter in the prominent Christian Glavian family. They lost their father soon after the 1896 massacres and had to emigrate to Bulgaria. But Sona wanted to continue her education in the College of Marzuwan as a boarding student and returned back to the homeland. At that time the tragic 1915 massacres were sweeping the country and many of the girls were exposed to torture and exile. Sona was taken in by a Turkish family where she lived for three years. Presumed dead by her family, great was the rejoicing when she reunited with her mother and brothers when the war ended in 1918.

In 1921, Sona and her mother came to the United States where one brother, Vartan, had already settled. Soon after Sona got married to John Benlian, but early in life lost her mother, brother and husband. She devoted herself to help her brother Melkon in Bulgaria and his family in many ways and visited him twice. After Melkon's death his daughter, Alice Odabashian and her son Raffi, came to the United States where Alice lived together with Sona for 15 years. She was rewarded for all the love and help she had bestowed. She got an instant daughter.

Sona was a devoted and faithful Christian lady. From the early days of the Martyrs' Congregational Church she was active in all church organizations and the choir. The church was her second home. It was in her nature to deprive herself to give generously. She set up an Endowment Fund with the AMAA in memory of the Glavian family.

Loved by all who have known her for her quiet and gentle character, her memory will be a constant inspiration to them.

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director extend their heartfelt sympathies to her next of kin and wish them God's comfort and grace.

SOCRAT KRIKOR (SHUKURDUMIAN) SHERMAN

Socrat Sherman, second oldest of five children born to Krikor and Antaram Shukurdumian, was born on August 24, 1888 in Hadjin, Cilician Armenia, and died in Los Angeles on February 14, 1982 — Valentine's Day. The vicissitude of fortune destined to him would make a good historical novel: Forced suspension of his schooling in Tarsus, business in Tarsus with his elder brother Avedis who left for the U.S. in 1909, his training as a gendarme, his witnessing of the 1909 Adana (20,000 victims) and Tarsus (200 victims) massacres of the Armenians, his instructorship of the Gendarme Academy in Beirut, his court-martial due to his protective role in the Beirut riots, his lucky walk into the French ship at the Beirut harbor and finally his joining of his two brothers in Boston. Every Armenian can write a "thriller" book chiefly as a consequence of the "Turkey for the Turks on-



Socrat (Shukurdumian) Sherman

ly" policy of the Turkish Government which led to three major programs, the last one of which between 1915-1918 was a Genocide.

In the U.S. Socrat found peace, prosperity and happiness: he married Miss Mary Philibosian on April 15, 1922 in Fresno; they moved to Los Angeles where Socrat established a dry cleaning business; they were blessed with two daughters, Helen, wife of Harold Hazerian and Ethel, wife of Bert Aivazian, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Socrat, a believer, considered himself to be doubly fortunate: first because he was saved from physical death and second because he was saved from spiritual death through faith in Jesus Christ.

The members of the AMAA Board of Directors, officers and staff extend their sincere and deep sympathies to Socrat's daughter Helen, and her husband Harold Hazerian; daughter Ethel, and her husband Bert Aivazian; grandchildren, James, Tom, Carolyn and Janice and to the three great grandchildren.

ZOHRAB A. KAPRIELIAN



Zohrab A. Kaprielian

The Board of Directors of the AMAA, the officers and staff were greatly saddened on receiving the news of the death of Zohrab A. Kaprielian on December 30, 1981 in Los Angeles of a heart attack at the age of 58.

Born in Aleppo, Syria in 1923, Kaprielian was the son of an Armenian businessman who had been forced to flee from Turkey to Syria during the massacres in 1916. He has had B.A. and M.A. degrees from the American University of Beirut and was a research fellow and instructor at Caltech until 1957. When he joined the University of Southern California, he rose to the rank of vice president and he built the Engineering School from zero to one of national repute.

Professor Kaprielian has said, "My major emphasis in life has been a kind of resentment against the treatment of Armenians. I wanted to prove that an Armenian person was a valuable person."

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

Mrs. Rachel Baboyan
N. Hollywood, Ca.
Mr. Haroutyun Berberian
Golana, Brazil
*Helen Dadian
Washington, D.C.
Mr. Puzant Demirjian
Fresno, Ca.
Mrs. Zabelle Hansen
Fresno, Ca.
Margaret Kalajian
Mary Mirigian
*Mrs. Virginia Tufenkian
Los Angeles, Ca.
*Mrs. Araxy Tumberian
New York, N.Y.
*Lillian Yeghigian
Mr. Hampar K. Tufenkian
St. Petersburg, Fl
Mrs. Zemrout Paravonian
Chicago, Ill.

August 4, 1981
October 13, 1981

*Mrs. Angele Boyajian Ashodian
Fresno, Ca. October 22, 1981
Movses Alahaydoyan
La Canada, Ca. November 10, 1981
Mr. Henry B. Terzian
Los Angeles, Ca. November 10, 1981
Mrs. Katherine Paul
Highland Park, Mi. November 23, 1981
Mr. Frank Kevorkian
Los Angeles, Ca. November 30, 1981
*Mrs. Satenig S. Koobation
Fresno, Ca. November 30, 1981
Mr. Asdig Koomjian
Evanston, Ill. November 30, 1981
*Mrs. Virginia (Bergouhie) Paul
N. Hollywood, Ca. December 19, 1981
Mrs. Alice Almas Melkonian
Detroit, Mi. December 21, 1981
*Mrs. Araxie Antikian Babikian
December 28, 1981
Mr. John Savoy
Fresno, Ca. December 28, 1981
Mr. Zohrab A. Kaprielian
Los Angeles, Ca. December 30, 1981
Mrs. Bedros Ekssozian
Methuen, Ma. January, 1982
Mrs. Dora Nersesian
Philadelphia, Pa. January 1, 1982
Mr. Marshall H. Medzorian
Arlington, Md. January 6, 1982
Mr. Levon Kazanjian
Drexel Hill, Pa. January 6, 1982
*Mr. Aram Sakayan
Washington D.C. January 7, 1982
*Mrs. Eleanor Onatrocchi
Chicago, Ill. January 11, 1982
*Mrs. Zabel Gaidzakian
Sao Paulo, Brasil January 12, 1982
Mrs. Flora Kurkjian
Chester Springs, Pa. January 13, 1982
*Mrs. Sona Benlian
Upper Darby, Pa. January 17, 1982
Dr. Allen H. Minor
Guilford, Ct. January 18, 1982
Mrs. Araxie Bahadourian Minor
Guilford, Ct. January 18, 1982
*Mrs. Elizabeth Sapsuzian Merrisman
Enfield, Ct. January 21, 1982
*Mr. Andy Boyajian
Fresno, Ca. January 25, 1982
*Mrs. Mary Kazarosian
Watertown, Ma. January 28, 1982
Mrs. Rose Sara Calusdian
Watertown, Ma. February 2, 1982
*Mr. Sarkis Edward Nahabedian
Newton Highlands, Ma. February 9, 1982
*Miss Ruth Philibosian
New York, N.Y. February 10, 1982
Mr. Nerses Varbedian
Detroit, Mi. February 15, 1982
*Dr. Haig Iskenderian
Daytona Beach, Fl. February 17, 1982
Miss Mary Manoogian
Fresno, Ca. February 17, 1982
Mr. Charles H. Baboian
Watertown, Ma. March 1, 1982
Miss Izabel Gulesian
Ma. March 10, 1982
*Mrs. Markarid Keshishian
Washington D.C. March 10, 1982
*Mr. Haroutiun Kazazian
Cambridge, Ma. March 12, 1982
Mr. Solomon Kasparian
Ma. March 16, 1982

*Memorials were designated for AMAA.
**A Bequest



Richard Yardumian, of whom the Philadelphia Inquirer said: "Music of soft radiance. Yardumian has much of spiritual import to say, and says it with understanding, strength and beauty."

A new digital recording of Yardumian's **ARMENIAN SUITE** and **SECOND SYMPHONY** has been made with Varujan Kojian, Lili Chookasian and the Utah Symphony Orchestra for Varese-Sarabande. Taking advantage of a pre-publication price, the AMAA will offer 150 records at \$8.00 each plus postage of \$1.00 for the first record and 35¢ for each additional record. After publication, the selling price will be \$15.00.

Rush your order for the first 150 copies to The Armenian Missionary Association of America, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, N.J. 07652. Buy more than one. This is your great opportunity.

Please forward _____ records of Yardumian's **ARMENIAN SUITE** and **SECOND SYMPHONY**.

I have enclosed \$8.00 for each record plus \$1.00 for the first record and 35¢ for each add'l records for shipping & packaging for a total amount of \$_____

☐ Please bill me \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Rush your order. Yardumian digital recording. This is your great opportunity. Rush your order. Yardumian digital recording. This is your great opportunity. Rush your order. Yardumian digital recording. This is

YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

A Continuing Witness

"Last will and testament." These words are not fearful if you are a Christian. A believer's Will can become a personal testimony to one's faith in Christ. For example, a Christian can begin in this way:

"I, _____, realizing the uncertainty of this life and with confidence and trust in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in His death on the cross for my sins, and in His shed blood as an atonement for my soul, know that by faith I have eternal life, and do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament.

To assure yourself to make an ongoing witness, your Will can name the Armenian Missionary Association of America as one of your beneficiaries. In this way you can have a part in bringing God's Word to others for years to come.

The word "testament," when used in this context, actually means "witness." As a Christian your life has been a testimony to the redeeming love of Christ. As you pass into life eternal you can continue to be a witness by leaving behind a legacy designed to bring the victorious Gospel message to our people.

PLANNED GIVING DEPARTMENT
ARMENIAN MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
140 Forest Ave.
Paramus, NJ 07652

Please send me without cost or obligation:

- ☐ How to Write a Will that works.
☐ 37 Things People Know, about Wills that aren't So

I am interested in:

- ☐ GIFT ANNUITIES
☐ UNITRUST
☐ REVOCABLE TRUSTS
☐ OTHER FORM OF PLANNED GIVING

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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